# In the Indiana Supreme Court

FILED  NOV -9 2006  CLERK OF THE COURT INDICATE OF THE COURT INDIC
INDIANA SUPREME COURT MURT OF APPEALS AND TAX COURT
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IN THE MATTER OF THE	)	
	)	Case No. 27S00-06   -MS-443
APPROVAL OF LOCAL RULES	)	
	)	
FOR GRANT COUNTY	)	

# ORDER APPROVING AMENDED LOCAL RULES

The judges of the Grant Circuit and Superior Courts request the approval of amended local rules for caseload allocation in accordance with Ind. Administrative Rule 1(E). Attached to this Order are the proposed amended local rules.

Upon examination of the proposed rule amendments requested by the Grant Circuit and Superior Courts, this Court finds that the proposed rule amendments, "Assignment of Criminal Cases" and Assignment of Civil Cases" comply with the requirements of Ind. Administrative Rule 1(E), and, accordingly, should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by this Court that the Grant County Caseload Reallocation Plan, set forth as an attachment to this Order, is approved effective January 1, 2007, provided further that the rule shall be posted in the county clerk's office(s) and on the county clerk's website, if any, and on the Indiana Judicial Website not less than thirty (30) days prior to the effective date.

The Clerk of this Court is directed to forward a copy of this Order to the Hon. Thomas R. Hunt, Grant Circuit Court, 101 East Fourth Street, Marion, IN 46952-4010; the Hon. Jeffrey D. Todd, Grant Superior Court, 101 East Fourth Street, #306, Marion, IN 46952-4010; the Hon. Randall Lee Johnson, Grant Superior Court, 101 East Fourth Street, #306, Marion, IN 46952-4004; the Hon. Natalie R. Conn, Grant Superior Court, 101 East Fourth Street, #306, Marion, IN 46952-4010, and to the Clerk of the Grant Circuit and Superior Courts.

The Clerk of the Grant Circuit and Superior Courts is directed to enter this Order and attachment in the Record of Judgments and Orders for the Courts, to post this Order and attachment for examination by the Bar and the general public, and if available, to publish this Order and attachment on the county clerk's website.

DONE at Indianapolis, Indiana, this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2006.

Chief Justice of Indiana

# **ASSIGNMENT OF CRIMINAL CASES**

- A. All felony and misdemeanor cases filed in the Grant Circuit and Superior Courts will be assigned pursuant to this Rule:
- B. These cases shall be filed in Grant Superior Court No. 3:
  - (1) All misdemeanors, except for trials de novo and jury trial requests from Marion and Gas City Courts.
  - (2) Class D Felony traffic offenses.
  - (3) Class D Felony domestic violence offenses.
  - (4) Other Class D Felony offenses for persons who do not have prior felony convictions.
  - (5) Any case designated as a Drug Court case.
- C. All waivers of juveniles to adult jurisdiction of all crimes from the Grant County Juvenile Court shall be filed in Grant Circuit Court.
- D. All juvenile cases, including automatic waivers to adult court, shall be filed in Grant Superior Court No. 2.
- E. All trial de novo and jury trial requests from Marion and Gas City Courts shall be assigned to Grant Superior Court No. 1.
- F. Other felony cases, including grand jury indictments, shall be filed by random selection in the Grant Circuit Court, Grant Superior Court No. 1 and Grant Superior Court No. 2. However, if charges are pending against an individual in either the Grant Circuit or any of the Superior Courts and a new charge is brought against that individual, the new charge shall be filed in the Court

where the original charge is pending. However, if the new charge is one which should be filed randomly under Rule 2(F) and an earlier charge is pending in Grant Superior Court No. 3 then that new charge shall be filed randomly in accord with Rule 2(F) and not in Grant Superior Court No. 3 and the earlier charge pending in Grant Superior Court No. 3 shall be transferred to the court in which the new charge is filed. If an individual is on probation and a new charge is filed against that individual, that new charge shall be filed in the court where the probation is pending. However, if an individual is on probation in Grant Superior Court No. 3 and the new charge is one which should be filed randomly under this subsection and subsection (F) of this Rule, then the new charge shall be filed randomly in accordance with those subsections. Grant Circuit Court shall impanel the Grand Jury.

- G. Random selection for Circuit Court, Superior Court No. 1 and Superior Court No. 2 shall be done by the Clerk of the Courts. The Clerk shall maintain a closed container with three (3) identical balls. Each of the three (3) balls will be designated for one of these three (3) Courts. When a new felony case is filed for these Courts the Clerk shall randomly select a ball from the closed container and the case shall then be assigned to the Court which has been designated for that particular ball. The Clerk shall enter the Court so designated on the criminal information and record the date and time of the Court selected.
- H. Multiple offenses against the same defendant shall be filed contemporaneously with the other charges using the highest class of charge in determining in which Court the case shall be filed.
- I. Where there are multiple defendants charged in the same case numbers or in different case numbers with felonies and misdemeanors arising out of the same facts and circumstances, all charges shall be filed in the same Court as indicated by this Rule.

- J. When a change of Judge has been granted by a regular Judge of the Grant Circuit and Superior Courts, the remaining three (3) Courts shall constitute the successor courts from which the State and the defendant shall select a Court for transfer. The party who has requested the change of Judge shall strike one of the successor courts within five (5) days after the order granting the change of venue from the Judge has been entered. The other party shall strike another of the successor courts from the panel within five (5) days. If either party fails to strike within the time allotted, the Clerk shall strike one of the Courts. The remaining Court shall be the successor Court and the case shall then be transferred to that Court.
- K. If one of the Judges recuses from a particular case then the case will be assigned to one of the other three (3) Courts of record by a blind draw system such as the one described in paragraph G above.
- L. If one of the three (3) Courts (Circuit, Superior No. 1, and Superior No. 2) becomes over-burdened with cases from the blind draw system that Court's ball may be removed from further draws upon majority vote of the three (3) Judges of those Courts, for whatever length of time and upon such terms and conditions that those Judges agree.

# **ASSIGNMENT OF CIVIL CASES**

A. Civil cases may be filed in the Circuit Court or any of the Superior Courts. Except that all Mental Health cases shall be filed in Circuit Court; all Small Claims matters shall be filed in Grant Superior Court No. 3, and all CHINS proceedings shall be filed in Grant Superior Court No. 2.

# Caseload Allocation Plan

Recommendation for Grant County

Recommendation: Approve

A preliminary analysis of Grant County's Caseload Allocation Plan revealed that the projected utilization variation between Grant Circuit Court and Superior Court 1 through 3 is less than the 0.40 allowable variation (see Figure 1).

	Projected Need	Actual Have	Projected Utilization
Circuit	1.27	1.25	1.0133
Superior 1		1.00	1.0997
Superior 2		1.00	1.2701
Superior 3	1.65	1.30	1.2723
		Difference	0.2590

Figure 1

# Method:

The projected utilization calculations displayed above are based on an analysis of Grant County's Caseload Allocation Plan and 2005 historical data. Please see Appendix A and Appendix B for a detailed analysis.

The Caseload Allocation Plan did not specifically address all case types, therefore, 2005 allocation methods were used, as noted as assumptions in Appendix A, in place of missing case types.

Appendix A Grant County 2006 WCL Plan

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# County Summary (All Courts)

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